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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/529,336	10/24/2005	Yukifumi Machida	05167/LH	8637

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EXAMINER
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IMAS, VLADIMIR

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2839

DATE MAILED: 05/05/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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<b>Supplemental Office Action Summary</b>	Application No. 10/529,336	Applicant(s) MACHIDA ET AL.	
	Examiner Vladimir Imas	Art Unit 2839	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 10-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 10-13 and 15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 14 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 March 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)            |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>03/24/2005</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Specification***

1. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because the numerals have to be in parenthesis. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

### ***Claim Objections***

2. Claim 12 is objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 12, line 1, "electrical holder" should be changed to --electrical connector--.

Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 10-13 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nimura et al. (US 2002/0142655).

Regarding claim 10, Nimura et al., fig. 1-12, discloses an electrical connector comprising a housing 30 having a plurality of terminal accommodating holes (not labeled) for accommodating a plurality of connecting terminals 20 connected to distal ends of electric wires 25 and a plurality of locking arms 34 each of which is engaged

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with a respective one of the connecting terminals not to remove backwardly, and a front holder 50 which is engaged with a front portion of the housing and includes a plurality of terminal inserting holes 55 through which cooperating connecting terminals (not shown) are to be inserted and a plurality of arm pushing portions each of which is urged against a respective one of the locking arms to enhance a locking force of the locking arms, characterized in that the front holder has formed therein a plurality of arm operating holes 56 through each of which a jig for operating the locking arms is to be inserted; the front holder is movable with respect to the housing in a direction perpendicular to an axial line of the housing (fig. 8, 11) between a first position and a second position; in the first position (full locking, fig.10-12) of the front holder, the plurality of locking arms are pushed toward connecting terminals and the plurality of terminal inserting holes are aligned with the plurality of connecting terminals such that an electrical connection between the connecting terminals and cooperating electrical terminals is attained by engaging a cooperating housing; and in the second position (partial locking, fig. 7-9) of the front holder, the plurality of terminal inserting holes are shifted out of the axial lines of the connecting terminals installed within the housing, the plurality of arm operating holes are aligned with the plurality of locking arms, a locking operation of a locking arm is released by inserting the jig into an arm operating hole and a connecting terminal can be removed from a terminal accommodating hole.

Regarding claim 11, Nimura et al. discloses the front holder is temporally engaged with the housing in the second position, the front holder is released from the second position into the first position by moving in a direction which is perpendicular to

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the axial direction of the housing as well as to a displacement direction of the locking arms, in the first position, the front holder is finally engaged with the housing, and the plurality of terminal inserting holes formed in the front holder are shifted from the plurality of arm operating holes in the direction along which the front holder is moved.

Regarding claim 12, Nimura et al. discloses the front holder is temporally engaged with the housing in the second position, the front holder is replaced from the second position into the first position by moving in a direction which is perpendicular to the axial direction of the housing and is parallel with a displacement direction of the locking arms, in the first position, the front holder is finally engaged with the housing, and the plurality of terminal inserting holes and the plurality of arm operating holes formed in the front holder are arranged side by side in the direction along which the front holder is moved.

Regarding claim 13, Nimura et al. discloses the front holder has formed therein a plurality of terminal pushing portions which push the connecting terminals backward to engage the plurality of locking arms with the plurality of connecting terminals in the axial direction without play when the front holder is moved from the second position into the first position.

Regarding claim 15, Nimura et al. discloses the electrical connector wherein in the first position, the front holder is engaged with the housing by means of a locking member (72, 73; 70, 71).

***Allowable Subject Matter***

5. Claim 14 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim 10, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reason for the indication of allowable subject matter: The Prior Art does not disclose the terminal pushing portions includes an inclined portions by means of which each of the connecting terminals is gradually pushed backward.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

***Conclusion***

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vladimir Imas whose telephone number is 571-272-8288. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, T. Patel can be reached on 571-272-2098. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Examiner  
Vladimir Imas  
05/02/2006



**TULSIDAS C. PATEL**  
**SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**